ATLAS
BATTLEFRONT
ALL NEW...
AUG. NO. 34
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
10¢
BATTLE FRONT
ALL NEW TALES
"THE COMMAND IS... ATTACK!"
TALES TORN FROM THE THICK OF BATTLE!
Joe Maneely

PRIZES GIVEN

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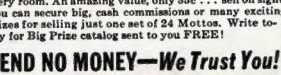

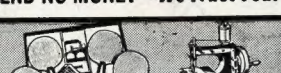

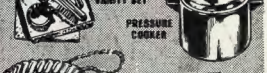

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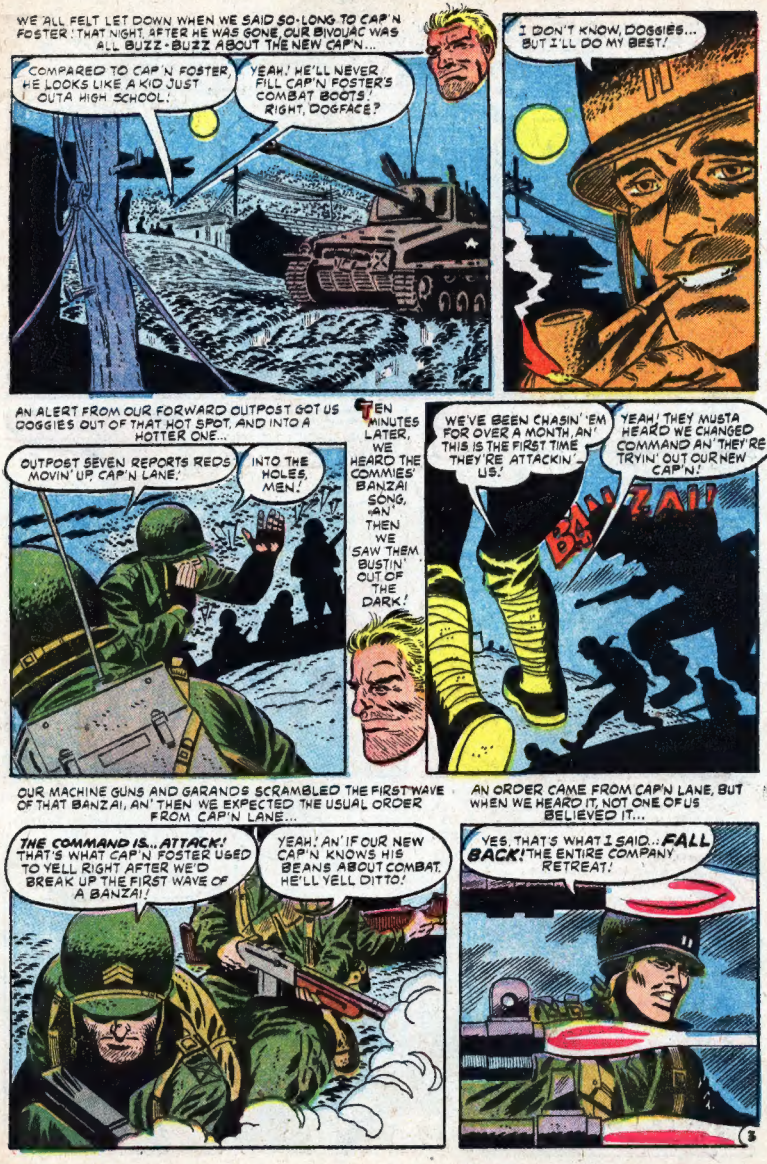
"THE COMMAND IS ATTACK!"
FORGIONE & ABEL
G271
THAT WAS ALWAYS CAP'N FOSTER'S COMMAND, WHEN I WAS A SERGEANT IN HIS BAKER COMPANY OF THE 45TH DIVISION IN KOREA! AND ATTACK WE DID!
TANKS COMIN', CAP'N!
TANKS GOING, SERGEANT!
VOOM!
TANKS GONE!

ATTACK... THAT MUSTA BEEN THE GUY'S MIDDLE NAME! AN' HE WAS ALWAYS UP IN FRONT OF THE OUTFIT, PRACTICIN' WHAT HE PREACHED...
COME ON, MEN! LET'S GO! GO! GO!
AN M.G. NEST!
JUST WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR...
...TO LAY MY STEEL G.I. EGGS IN!
BOOOM!
WE ATTACKED THE REDS IN RICE PADDIES...
THE COMMAND IS... ATTACK!
WE SLAMMED AT THEM IN THE WOODS!
ATTACK!
WE SHAGGED THEM ON HILLTOPS AND RIDGES...
ATTACK!
WE ATTACKED ON EVERY KIND OF TERRAIN AND IN EVERY KIND OF WEATHER, AND WE NEVER LOST AN INCH OF REAL ESTATE TO THE REDS...
WHAT A GUY! IF WE HAD A DOZEN LIKE HIM, THE WAR WOULD BE OVER MIGHTY FAST!
CLAM UP! HERE HE COMES WITH ANOTHER OFFICER!
50 CAL
MEN, THIS IS CAPTAIN LANE! ROTATION FINALLY CAUGHT UP WITH ME AND I'M LEAVING! CAPTAIN LANE WILL REPLACE ME AS C.O. OF BAKER COMPANY!


WE ALL FELT LET DOWN WHEN WE SAID SO-LONG TO CAP'N FOSTER: THAT NIGHT, AFTER HE WAS GONE, OUR BIVOUAC WAS ALL BUZZ-BUZZ ABOUT THE NEW CAP'N...
COMPARED TO CAP'N FOSTER, HE LOOKS LIKE A KID JUST OUTA HIGH SCHOOL!
YEAH! HE'LL NEVER FILL CAP'N FOSTER'S COMBAT BOOTS! RIGHT, DOGFACE?
I DON'T KNOW, DOGGIES... BUT I'LL DO MY BEST!
AN ALERT FROM OUR FORWARD OUTPOST GOT US DOGGIES OUT OF THAT HOT SPOT, AND INTO A HOTTER ONE...
OUTPOST SEVEN REPORTS REDS MOVIN' UP, CAP'N LANE!
INTO THE HOLES, MEN!
TEN MINUTES LATER, WE HEARD THE COMMIES' BANZAI SONG, AN' THEN WE SAW THEM BUSTIN' OUT OF THE DARK!
WE'VE BEEN CHASIN' 'EM FOR OVER A MONTH, AN' THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THEY'RE ATTACKIN' US!
YEAH! THEY MUSTA HEARD WE CHANGED COMMAND AN' THEY'RE TRYIN' OUT OUR NEW CAP'N!
BANZAI
OUR MACHINE GUNS AND GARANDS SCRAMBLED THE FIRST WAVE OF THAT BANZAI, AN' THEN WE EXPECTED THE USUAL ORDER FROM CAP'N LANE...
THE COMMAND IS... ATTACK! THAT'S WHAT CAP'N FOSTER USED TO YELL RIGHT AFTER WE'D BREAK UP THE FIRST WAVE OF A BANZAI!
YEAH! AN' IF OUR NEW CAP'N KNOWS HIS BEANS ABOUT COMBAT, HE'LL YELL DITTO!
AN ORDER CAME FROM CAP'N LANE, BUT WHEN WE HEARD IT, NOT ONE OF US BELIEVED IT...
YES, THAT'S WHAT I SAID... FALL BACK! THE ENTIRE COMPANY RETREAT!
3

RETREATIN' INSTEAD OF ATTACKIN' WAS SOMETHIN' NEW FOR US **BAKER COMPANY** DOGGIES, AN' NONE OF US LIKED IT...

WHY'D HE GIVE AN ORDER LIKE THAT, SARGE? WE COULDA STOPPED THAT BANZAI EASY WITH AN ATTACK!

HE'S NEVER BEEN IN COMBAT BEFORE! HE NEEDS EXPERIENCE!

THAT WAS ONLY A SKIRMISH BATTLE AND WE ONLY RETREATED 500 YARDS, BUT TO A COMPANY THAT HAD ALWAYS ATTACKED AND NEVER LOST A SPECK OF KOREAN DIRT TO THE REDS, IT WAS MIGHTY ANNOYING...

THIS NEVER WOULDA HAPPENED IF CAP'N FOSTER WAS HERE!

YEAH! AN' IF THIS NEW GUY CALLS A SCRAMMO ON A BABY BANZAI, WHAT'LL HAPPEN WHEN THE REDS TOSS A BIG ONE AT US?

U.S. ARMY KOREA

THE REDS WERE PROBABLY TOYIN' WITH THE SAME THOUGHT, AFTER THEIR FIRST VICTORY IN OVER A MONTH...

NEW CAPTAIN OF 'MELICAN COMPANY NOT SO GOOD SOLDIER LIKE OTHER CAPTAIN, COMRADE MAJOR!

NO...SO WE TRY ANOTHER ATTACK SOON!

DAWN WASN'T THE ONLY THING THAT BROKE OVER THE BATTLEFRONT HORIZON THE NEXT MORNING...

ATTACK

WE ALL FIGURED **ONE** RETREAT WAS TOO MANY FOR **BAKER COMPANY**, SO WE REALLY POURED ON THE .30-CALIBERS WHEN THAT COMMIE DAWN ATTACK CAME AT US...

REMEMBER THE RETREAT, DOGGIES! DON'T LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN!

AS SOON AS THE CAP'N GIVES THE **ATTACK** ORDER...WE'LL GET THAT REAL ESTATE WE LOST LAST NIGHT...**PLUS**...

THE REDS DIDN'T HEAR CAP'N LANE'S ORDER, BUT I'M SURE THEY LAUGHED WHEN THEY SAW US CARRY IT OUT...

HA! OBSERVE, COMRADE MAJOR! THE YONKEES RETREAT AGAIN!

YEP, WE RETREATED AGAIN, AN' THE REDS GOT BACK ANOTHER THOUSAND YARDS OF REAL ESTATE FROM US...

THAT NEW CAPTAIN COULD HAVE DESTROYED OUR ATTACK, IF HE REMAINED TO FIGHT, BUT INSTEAD HE PULLS OUT THE COMPANY AND RUNS!

WE KEEP ATTACKING, UNTIL THEY HAVE TO RETREAT BY SWIMMING IN THE SEA OF JAPAN!

FOR A WEEK, THE REDS ATTACKED US, AND FOR A WEEK WE MOVED BACK! THE BATTLES WEREN'T BIG ONES, AN' WE NEVER LOST MORE'N A MILE OF TERRITORY AT A CRACK, BUT WE WERE GOIN' BACKWARD INSTEAD OF FORWARD...

THE COMMAND IS... ***RETREAT!***

WITH EVERY VICTORY, THE REDS GOT BOLDER! THEY ATTACKED DURIN' THE DAY AN' DURIN' THE NIGHT, AN' OUR ORDERS WERE ALWAYS DITTO...

THE COMMAND IS...

RETREAT!

AND NOW COMES TIME FOR THE ***BIG ATTACK!*** WE HAVE BANZAIED ONLY WITH PLATOONS AND WON, SO TOMORROW WE WILL USE ENTIRE REGIMENT AND DESTROY THE 'MELICAN COMPANY!

YES, COMRADE MAJOR! AND LIKE ALL OUR ATTACKS, THIS ONE WILL BE AN ***EASY*** VICTORY!

THAT BIG BANZAI THE NEXT MORNING WAS LIKE A BIG PARADE! THE REDS WERE SURE OF THEIR VICTORY, AS THEY CAME ACROSS THE BATTLEFRONT YELLIN', BANGIN' CYMBALS AN' BLOWIN' BUGLES!

YEAH, IT'S THE BIG BINGO ALL RIGHT!

AN' HERE COMES OUR USUAL ORDER TO MOVE BACK!

ATTACK!

"COMMAND...ATTACK!"
THAT'S WHAT CAP'N LANE SAID, AN' THAT'S WHAT WE DID! IT WAS A SURPRISE TO US, BUT TO THOSE COMMIES, IT WAS A SHOCK! FIRST WE PEPPERED THAT BIG BANZAI WITH GARAND-FIRE... THEN WE CLOBBERED THE REDS WITH GRENADES, AN' WE FINISHED OFF BY TANGLIN' WITH 'EM IN HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT ON THAT KOREAN BATTLEFRONT...
SIX HOURS LATER, WHAT WAS LEFT OF THE RED REGIMENT SURRENDERED AN' BAKER COMPANY WON MORE TERRITORY AND GOT MORE PRISONERS FROM THAT ONE BATTLE, THAN WE DID IN ALL OUR PREVIOUS ADVANCES...
YOU TRICKED US, CAPTAIN! YOU RETREATED AND ALLOWED US TO WIN THE SMALL BATTLES AND SKIRMISHES, SO WE WOULD BECOME OVER-CONFIDENT AND CARELESS! THEN, WHEN WE ATTACKED WITH BIG BANZAI, YOU DID NOT RUN... YOU ATTACKED!
YES, MAJOR, THAT'S EXACTLY THE WAY I FIGURED IT!
AN' WE HAD IT AN' CAP'N LANE FIGURED ALL WRONG! BUT AS BAKER COMPANY MOVED NORTH AGAIN, WE WERE SURE THAT WHATEVER COMMAND THE CAP'N I GAVE WOULD BE THE RIGHT COMMAND BECAUSE WE HAD THE MOST TERRIFIC CAP'N OF ALL, LEADIN' US TO THE BATTLE-FRONT!
LIKE I ALWAYS SAID, SARGE... WHAT A GUY!
THE END
6.

ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN WAR TALES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER! ATLAS

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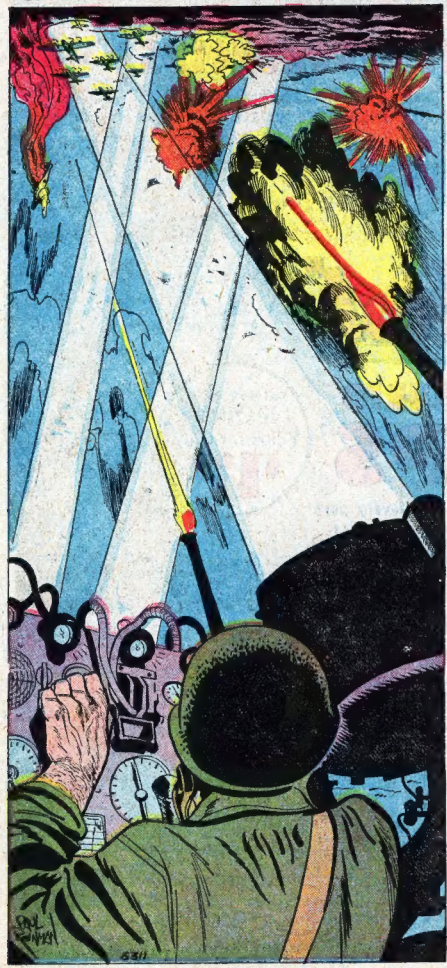
THERE WAS MORE TO MANNING THE MILLION CANDLEPOWER BANK OF AA LIGHTS THAN MERELY FLICKING A SWITCH AND TRAVERSING THE POWERFUL BEAMS INTO THE SKY! PRIVATE DANNY PAYNE KNEW THIS, BUT HE COULDN'T CONVINCE HIS BUDDIES THAT SKILL AND BRAINS WERE NEEDED TO GUIDE...

THE BIG LIGHT!



TAKE FOR EXAMPLE THAT NIGHT IN FRANCE, WHEN THE RADAR SCREENS PICKED UP THE NAZI BOMBERS...

RADAR CONTACT... ZERO-TWO-EIGHT... VECTOR ONE-SIX! CLOSING! ENEMY AIRCRAFT APPROACHING!

THE AA CREWS WAITED TENSELY IN THE BLACKNESS, AS THE CONTACT DRONED THROUGH THE SPEAKERS...

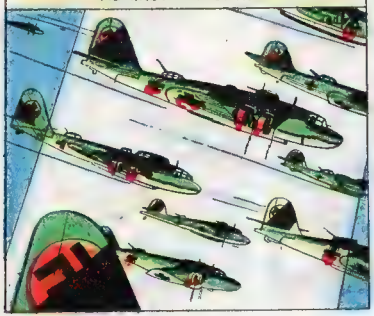
RED ALERT! ENEMY AIRCRAFT CLOSING ...GRID ZERO-THREE-SIX! BLUE FLASH READY TO FIRE!

THE SIGNAL CAME! PRIVATE DANNY PAYNE'S HANDS PULLED FOR POWER! HIS LIGHTS CAME ON LIKE YELLOW LAMPS TURNING TO BRILLIANT BLUE-WHITE...

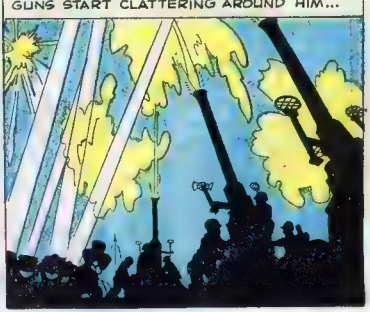
HIS EYES WATCHED THE FLICKERING AMP AND VOLTAGE NEEDLES, AS THE RHEOSTATS SENT A SURGE OF GRADUAL POWER THROUGH THE HEAVY CABLES...

THE MASSIVE BANK OF LIGHTS BEGAN A SYSTEMATIC SWEEP OF THE SKIES, PROBING, SEARCHING THE BLACKNESS FOR THE ENEMY...

THEN THE LIGHTS WAVERED AND STEADIED! THE ENEMY PLANES WERE REVEALED AGAINST THE SKY...

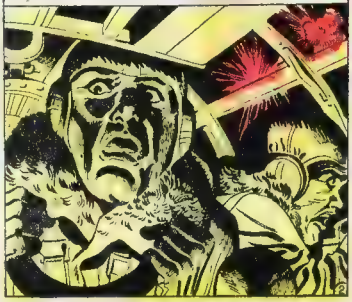


THEY WERE PARALYZED ON A STEADY COURSE... UNABLE TO MOVE, AND DANNY PAYNE KNEW IT! HE HEARD THE *AA* GUNS START CLATTERING AROUND HIM...



HIS WAS THE PILOT LIGHT... THE PATHFINDER! NOW THAT THE ENEMY WAS SPOTTED, THE OTHER LIGHTS COULD HOLD THEM...

AND IN THE NAZI BOMBERS, THE CREWS SWEATED, UNABLE TO AVOID EITHER THE GLARING LIGHTS OR THE FLAK WHICH SOUGHT THEM...



THE BOMBERS WERE FIXED! BUT HOW ABOUT THE NIGHT FIGHTERS COVERING THEM? DANNY KNEW WHERE TO FIND THEM...

THEY'LL BE FLANKING THE FORMATION AT THREE AND NINE O'CLOCK! HERE GOES!

DANNY'S LIGHT LEFT THE BOMBERS AND PROBED THE INKY SKIES, SEEKING THE SWIFT FIGHTERS...

THEY DIVED, ROLLED, LOOPED AND SQUIRMED TO LOSE THE GLARING FINGER, BUT THE LIGHT STUCK TENACIOUSLY...

MEANWHILE, A PAIR OF P-51'S SPOTTED THE ENEMY...

BILLY G FROM RAZOR KING! TWO DUCKS AT 5 O'CLOCK LOW! LET'S TAKE 'EM! TALLY-HO!

THEY SWOOPED AND CAUGHT THE ENEMY FIGHTERS IN THEIR SIGHTS AND TRIPPED THE TRIGGERS...

DANNY PAYNE SAW THE ORANGE BLASTS AND WATCHED THE ENEMY PLANES FLUTTER DOWN IN A FLAMING ARC...

THEY WERE OVERHEAD AND PASSING NOW... A SHATTERED FORMATION WHICH WAS DOOMED TO FAILURE...

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE...

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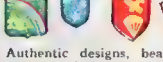

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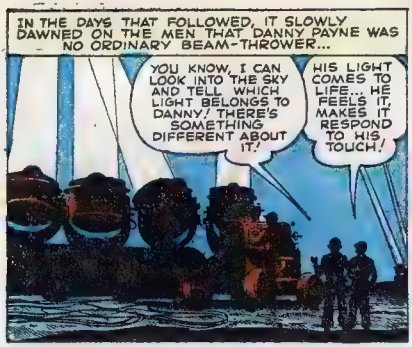
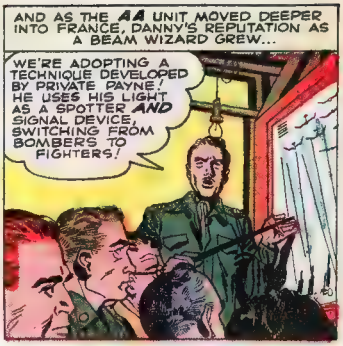
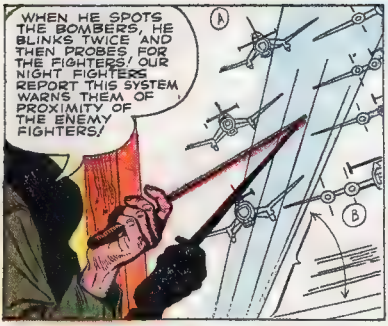
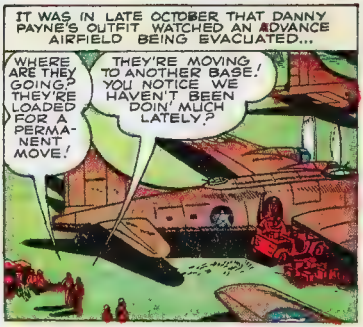
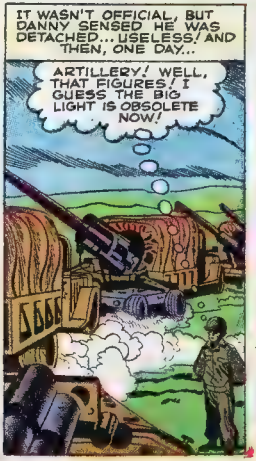

IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED, IT SLOWLY DAWNED ON THE MEN THAT DANNY PAYNE WAS NO ORDINARY BEAM-THROWER...
YOU KNOW, I CAN LOOK INTO THE SKY AND TELL WHICH LIGHT BELONGS TO DANNY! THERE'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT IT!
HIS LIGHT COMES TO LIFE... HE FEELS IT, MAKES IT RESPOND TO HIS TOUCH!


AND AS THE AA UNIT MOVED DEEPER INTO FRANCE, DANNY'S REPUTATION AS A BEAM WIZARD GREW...
WE'RE ADOPTING A TECHNIQUE DEVELOPED BY PRIVATE PAYNE! HE USES HIS LIGHT AS A SPOTTER AND SIGNAL DEVICE, SWITCHING FROM BOMBERS TO FIGHTERS!


WHEN HE SPOTS THE BOMBERS, HE BLINKS TWICE AND THEN PROBES FOR THE FIGHTERS! OUR NIGHT FIGHTERS REPORT THIS SYSTEM WARNS THEM OF PROXIMITY OF THE ENEMY FIGHTERS!
A
B


IT WAS IN LATE OCTOBER THAT DANNY PAYNE'S OUTFIT WATCHED AN ADVANCE AIRFIELD BEING EVACUATED...
WHERE ARE THEY GOING? THEY'RE LOADED FOR A PERMANENT MOVE!
THEY'RE MOVING TO ANOTHER BASE! YOU NOTICE WE HAVEN'T BEEN DOIN' MUCH LATELY?

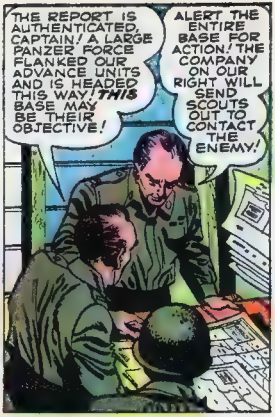
AND IT WAS TRUE! NIGHT AFTER NIGHT, DANNY PAYNE HAD NOTICED THE LACK OF ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY...
IT'S PLENTY QUIET AGAIN TONIGHT! NO USE FOR SEARCHLIGHTS! I WONDER WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO THE OUTFIT?


IT WASN'T OFFICIAL, BUT DANNY SENSED HE WAS DETACHED... USELESS! AND THEN, ONE DAY...
ARTILLERY! WELL, THAT FIGURES! I GUESS THE BIG LIGHT IS OBSOLETE NOW!

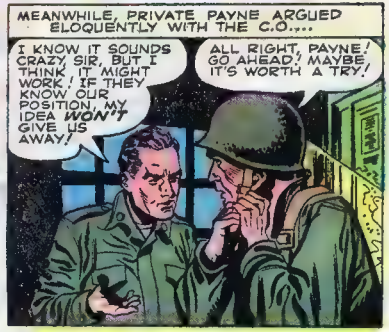
HE KNEW WHAT WAS COMING! IT WAS INEVITABLE, SO HE ACCEPTED IT WITHOUT MURMUR...
YOU'LL KEEP YOUR SAME MOS NUMBER, PAYNE... BUT YOU'RE BEING ATTACHED TO AN INFANTRY UNIT! I'LL SEND WORD TO YOU WHEN AND WHERE TO GO!
I'LL BE AROUND, SARGE!

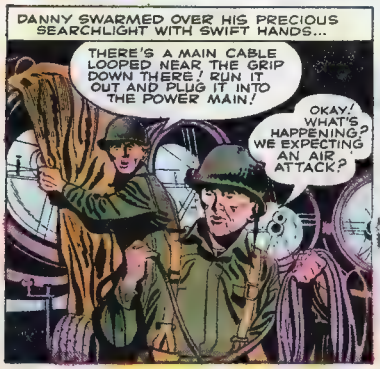
THAT NIGHT, DANNY PAYNE WENT TO TAKE A LAST LOOK AT HIS BIG LIGHT!
SO LONG, BIG GUY! I GUESS WE WON'T BE SEEIN' EACH OTHER ANY MORE!

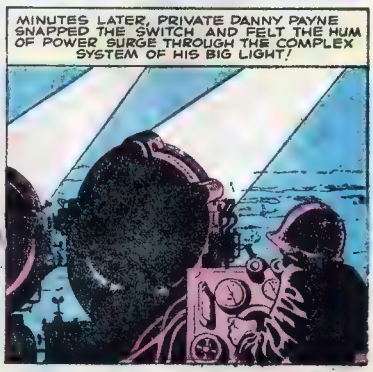
BUT AT THAT MOMENT, COMMUNICATION WIRES CRACKLED FRANTICALLY AT H.Q....
TOP PRIORITY, SIR! BREAK-THROUGH AT SECTOR ONE-SEVEN! HEAVY TANK INFILTRATION!
KEEP ON THE WIRE! GET ALL THE INFO YOU CAN!

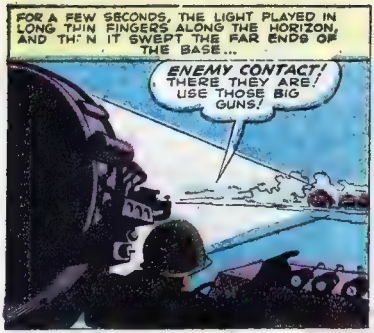

THE REPORT IS AUTHENTICATED, CAPTAIN! A LARGE PANZER FORCE FLANKED OUR ADVANCE UNITS AND IS HEADED THIS WAY! THIS BASE MAY BE THEIR OBJECTIVE!
ALERT THE ENTIRE BASE FOR ACTION! THE COMPANY ON OUR RIGHT WILL SEND SCOUTS OUT TO CONTACT THE ENEMY!

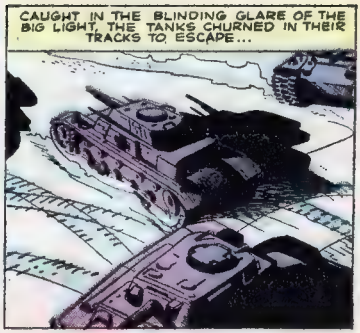
OUTSIDE IN THE NIGHT, A HUNDRED EARS AND AS MANY EYES PROBED THE DARKNESS FOR A SOUND...
YOU HEAR ANYTHING, MONK?
NOT A TWIG SNAPPING!

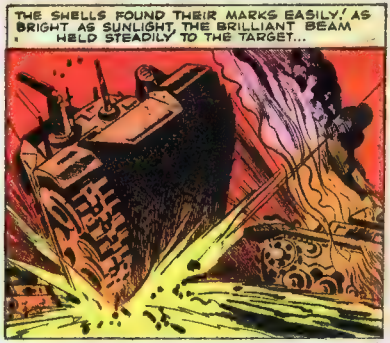

MEANWHILE, PRIVATE PAYNE ARGUED ELOQUENTLY WITH THE C.O....
I KNOW IT SOUNDS CRAZY, SIR, BUT I THINK IT MIGHT WORK! IF THEY KNOW OUR POSITION, MY IDEA WON'T GIVE US AWAY!
ALL RIGHT, PAYNE! GO AHEAD! MAYBE IT'S WORTH A TRY!

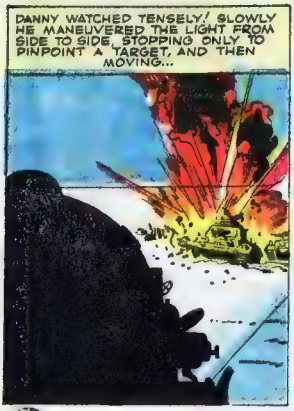

DANNY SWARMED OVER HIS PRECIOUS SEARCHLIGHT WITH SWIFT HANDS...
THERE'S A MAIN CABLE LOOPED NEAR THE GRIP DOWN THERE! RUN IT OUT AND PLUG IT INTO THE POWER MAIN!
OKAY! WHAT'S HAPPENING? WE EXPECTING AN AIR ATTACK?


MINUTES LATER, PRIVATE DANNY PAYNE SNAPPED THE SWITCH AND FELT THE HUM OF POWER SURGE THROUGH THE COMPLEX SYSTEM OF HIS BIG LIGHT!


FOR A FEW SECONDS, THE LIGHT PLAYED IN LONG TWIN FINGERS ALONG THE HORIZON, AND TH·N IT SWEPT THE FAR ENDS OF THE BASE...
ENEMY CONTACT! THERE THEY ARE! USE THOSE BIG GUNS!



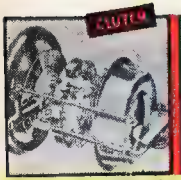



DANNY WATCHED TENSELY! SLOWLY HE MANEUVERED THE LIGHT FROM SIDE TO SIDE, STOPPING ONLY TO PINPOINT A TARGET, AND THEN MOVING...

THE NIGHT CAME ALIVE WITH THE ROAR OF BATTLE, WHICH FINALLY SUBSIDED...
CAN YOU HEAR ME, PAYNE? YOU'RE MY BOY! YOU'RE A PERMANENT PART OF THIS OUTFIT!
YESSIR!

DANNY PAYNE WAS HAPPY NOW! THE GRINS OF THE ARTILLERYMEN TOLD HIM THEY KNEW YOU NEEDED BRAINS AND SKILL TO MAN A BIG LIGHT!
THE END

ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN WAR TALES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER! ATLAS



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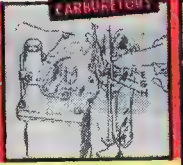

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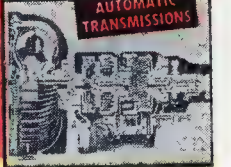

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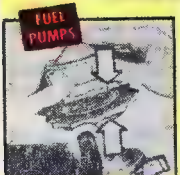

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BOMBARDMENT

THE date was the fourth of April, 1918. The time was two-thirty A.M. The place was over No Man's Land between the Allied and the German lines. In a Spad bi-plane, young American Lieutenant Steve Binney leaned forward in his open cockpit, rose slightly to tap the pilot of the plane on the shoulder. Lieutenant Armond Genaud turned in his seat to peer around. Through the bright moon glow, Binney caught the smile on his face.

"We're almost there!" Binney yelled above the noise of the motor. Again, with the aid of a small flashlight, he referred to an aerial map and a compass. The ground below was plainly visible, though the plane itself would have been difficult to spot, because Genaud was skillfully hopping behind thin layers of cloud. Binney glanced at his watch. An hour before, he had been briefed by General McQuartan. He remembered the General's dry comments.

"On the morning of March 23rd, 1918," McQuartan had begun with scientific precision, beginning to review the facts that Binney already knew, "Paris was bombed from the air, despite the fact that no plane, enemy or friendly was within twenty miles of the city. The nearest German position was sixty miles away, Binney, as it still is. German aircraft could have bombed Paris, except that they didn't. After the first shell landed, they kept coming regularly at twenty minute intervals. Not much damage was done." McQuartan paused.

"In other words," Binney said, "the damage aspect isn't important. Morale is."

McQuartan nodded.

"Morale was and is," he agreed. "Particularly in view of the fact that we've now come to the conclusion that Paris wasn't bombed at all, but has been shelled by a long-range super gun! Mind you, Binney," he continued, fixing the young intelligence officer with narrow eyes, "we can't prove it yet. We can't prove there actually *is* a gun that could fire at least sixty-two miles and maybe a lot more. But we now know just about where it is."

"Why not bomb it, sir?" Binney asked.

McQuartan smiled grimly.

"Designers may give us a bombing plane big enough to destroy a ground position, a plane that will travel over 120 miles an hour. I say they *may* give us such a plane, sometime. Our fastest bomber only goes about a hundred, and it can't carry big stuff. Their anti-aircraft guns would blow anything we've got out of the sky."

"Then only a man could . . ."

"Exactly," McQuartan said. "One man can locate it exactly and, if he's lucky, get back to tell us where it is. That's the whole point. We can't spot it exactly; we have no way of destroying such a gun. But big things are in preparation, and we want to know where it is, so we can grab it fast when the offensive gets going. If such a gun exists, it'd be too big to move fast enough to avoid capture."

Again Steve tapped Genaud on the shoulder. The plane had arrived near the spot GHQ had conjectured as the possible location of the big gun. Genaud cut his engine, headed the plane down in a slow, wide, circling glide. A few moments later, its wheels touched earth and it rolled to a stop in a wide, smooth meadow.

"Tomorrow night, arranged time, two miles west," Binney cried as he jumped out the cockpit. He pulled the propeller over and the engine caught. An instant later, with Genaud waving, the Spad was rolling forward and into the air.

Binney quickly took cover behind a clump of trees. He was already behind the German lines. He glanced down at the French peasant garb he wore. In a pinch, it might get him past a sentry or two should he be discovered. The great task was to

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT STORY...

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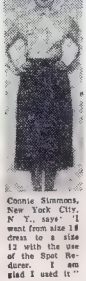

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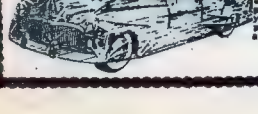

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THE MAN WHO VOLUNTEERED!

TAKE IT EASY, HARRY!

HOW CAN I? I DIDN'T JOIN THIS ARMY AS AN OBSERVER! I CAME TO FIGHT! THE FIGHTING'S DOWN THERE... AND I'M UP HERE!

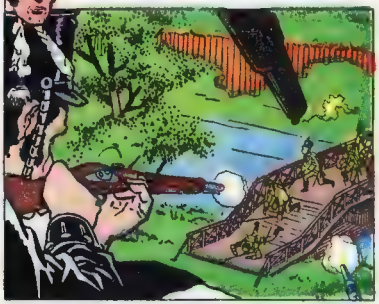
ENGINEERS! THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL US... AND WE'RE FORBIDDEN TO JOIN IN THE FIGHTING!

THEY SAY THEY'VE GOT IMPORTANT WORK FOR US TO DO! SPECIAL!

MY GRANDFATHER WAS A SOLDIER IN THE REVOLUTION! WASHINGTON HIMSELF PRESENTED HIM WITH A MEDAL! IT HANGS ON A WALL IN MY HOME! MY ONE AMBITION WAS TO GET A MEDAL, TOO... AND TAKE IT HOME TO SHOW GRANDFATHER! BUT HOW AM I GOING TO WIN A MEDAL NOW?

"THEY MADE IT! THEY MADE THE BRIDGE! A FEW AMERICANS CAN HOLD BACK THE WHOLE ATTACK FROM THERE FOR A WHILE, WITH LUCK..."

"NOW OUR BOYS HAVE TAKEN TO THE HILLS ABOVE THE BRIDGE, AND ARE SHOOTING DOWN ON THE BRITISH, ' PREVENTING THEM FROM CROSSING..."



THEN WE'VE BEATEN THEM, CAPTAIN!
NOT QUITE! WITH THE COMING OF NIGHT, THE ENEMY WILL CROSS THE BRIDGE! THEY'LL BE JOINED BY MORE TROOPS AND NOTHING CAN STOP THEM!

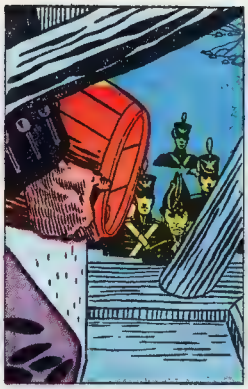
YOU WERE PICKED FOR THE ENGINEER CORPS BECAUSE OF YOUR EXPERIENCE IN CONSTRUCTION! NOW, HOWEVER, YOUR MISSION IS TO DESTROY!

OUR TASK IS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE DARKNESS AND BLOW UP THE BRIDGE... JUST BEFORE DAWN, AS THEY ARE ABOUT TO CROSS IT! ARE YOU READY?
WE'RE READY!

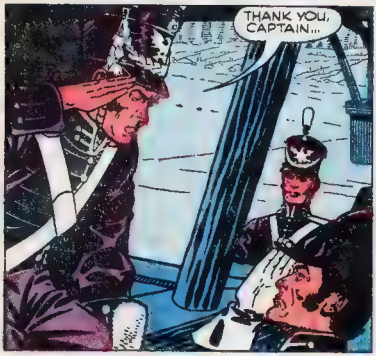
AND SO THE MISSION BEGAN! UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS, THE MEN STOLE DOWN THE HILL TOWARD THE RIVER...
GOT THE POWDER?
YES, SIR!

THEY WERE IN DANGER, NOT ONLY FROM THE BRITISH, BUT FROM THEIR OWN MEN WHO COULD MISTAKE THEM IN THE DARKNESS AND FIRE UPON THEM! SO EVERY STEP THEY TOOK WAS MADE WITH EXTREME CAUTION...

SILENTLY, THEY SLIPPED INTO THE COLD WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE, THE PRECIOUS POWDER HELD HIGH...



ALL SET? GOOD! ALL THAT'S LEFT NOW IS FOR SOMEONE TO STAY BEHIND AND SET IT OFF, JUST AS THE BRITISH START TO CROSS!
I'LL VOLUNTEER, SIR!

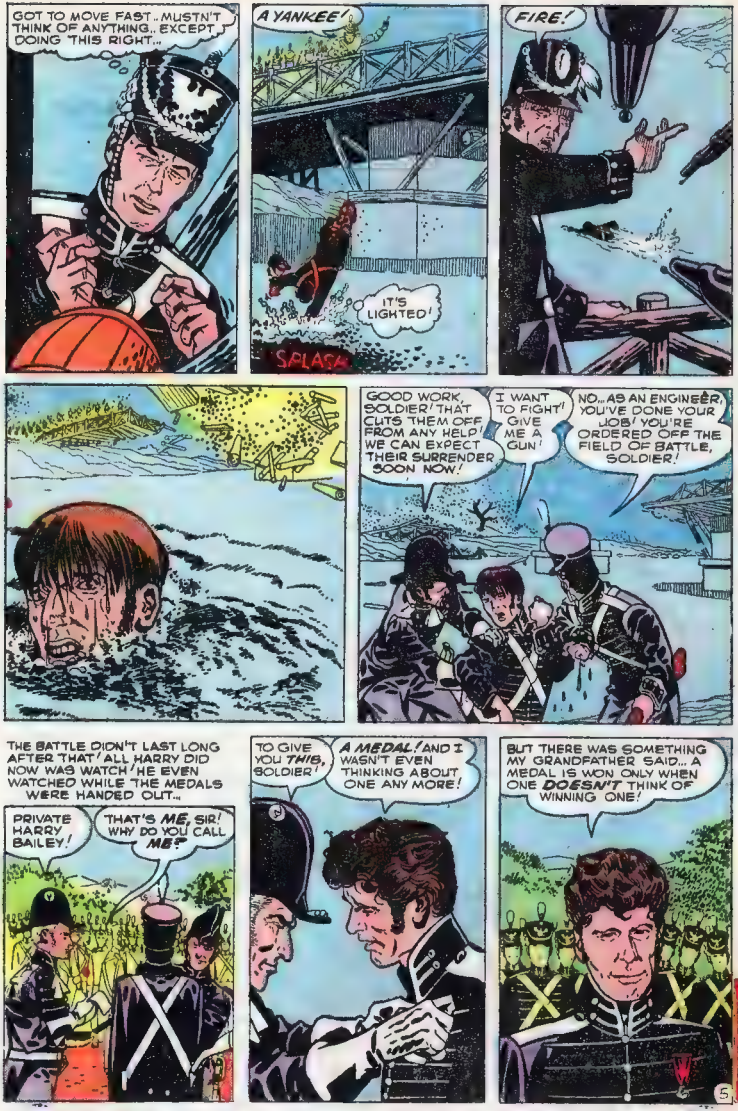


AND SO THE REST OF THE CORPS WADED BACK TO THE BANK AND SAFETY, WHILE HARRY BAILEY, ENGINEER CORPSMAN, REMAINED BEHIND, PERCHED ON THE BRINK OF DESTINY... ALONE WITH A KEG OF POWDER...

AND THE STRANGEST PART OF IT WAS THAT HE NO LONGER THOUGHT OF THE MEDAL HE DESIRED SO MUCH! THIS WAS A JOB TO DO AND HE MEANT TO DO IT SUCCESSFULLY...

THE LONG HOURS OF NIGHT WENT BY! IT WAS LIKE THE PASSAGE OF YEARS TO THE SOLDIER CROUCHED UNDER THE BRIDGE...

THEN AT DAWN...


GOT TO MOVE FAST.. MUSTN'T THINK OF ANYTHING.. EXCEPT DOING THIS RIGHT...
A YANKEE!
IT'S LIGHTED!
SPLASH
FIRE!
GOOD WORK, SOLDIER! THAT CUTS THEM OFF FROM ANY HELP! WE CAN EXPECT THEIR SURRENDER SOON NOW!
I WANT TO FIGHT! GIVE ME A GUN!
NO... AS AN ENGINEER, YOU'VE DONE YOUR JOB! YOU'RE ORDERED OFF THE FIELD OF BATTLE, SOLDIER!
THE BATTLE DIDN'T LAST LONG AFTER THAT! ALL HARRY DID NOW WAS WATCH! HE EVEN WATCHED WHILE THE MEDALS WERE HANDED OUT...
PRIVATE HARRY BAILEY!
"THAT'S ME, SIR! WHY DO YOU CALL ME?"
TO GIVE YOU THIS, SOLDIER!
A MEDAL! AND I WASN'T EVEN THINKING ABOUT ONE ANY MORE!
BUT THERE WAS SOMETHING MY GRANDFATHER SAID... A MEDAL IS WON ONLY WHEN ONE DOESN'T THINK OF WINNING ONE!
THE END

ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN WAR TALES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER! ATLAS

IN JUST 30 days

BE A POWERHOUSE OF MUSCLES!

FEAR NO ONE

FAMOUS HIP POCKET GYM

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Please rush my HIP POCKET GYM and **FREE**, Illustrated Book that shows how to add muscles. I enclose $3.95 send. If C.O.D., enclose $1 deposit, pay postman balance plus charges. If not satisfied, I may return all in 5 days for Cash Refund of purchase price.

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...CONTINUED

remain hidden. He moved east and north, his senses alert. GHQ had reasoned that the super-gun had been moved by rail. But airplane photographs had shown many railroad spurs suddenly appearing in the suspected area. Shrewdly, Binney had expressed his conjecture to General McQuartan that a good many of these were fakes or camouflage. Now, as he came upon one at the very edge of the meadow, he knew he had been right. The bright moonlight, obscured only by high-flying clouds, picked out the roughly-laid wooden rails. Binney stepped over them cautiously and moved on.

Up ahead, through the darkness, he glimpsed a barracks building. Sounds of music came from it. Here, he knew, the Germans would feel themselves secure. From ten miles to the west came the ever-present mutter of the artillery barrages.

He skirted the barracks, giving it a wide berth. The moonlight glinted off the rifle of a sleepy guard standing against the barrack. A row of trees now hid him effectively from further view. Up along it he trudged silently, all his senses alert.

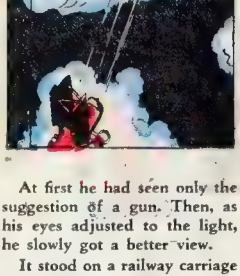
Suddenly, a blast shook the ground. From up ahead, at a mile distant, the night sky was lit up by a spurt of flame. Simultaneously, there was an accompanying barrage.

The gun! It was the gun that was shelling Paris. Quickly, he made some rough mental calculations. He knew he had to be right, in the main. And now he knew the location of the gun. For a moment he paused trying to decide whether to go back to the meadow and hide. But his orders had also included instructions to have a look at the great weapon, if he could.

Swiftly he trudged ahead. Originally, the gun had fired at twenty-minute intervals, but now the firing, as GHQ had discovered had become intermittent. He wanted to find out why.

Before him lay a forest. Into this he plunged, dodging from tree to tree. An odor of exploded cordite came downwind toward him. He knew he was on the right track. Endlessly, it seemed, he went on through the forest. Then, up ahead, he stumbled on another set of rails. Leaning down, he felt them. They were steel!

Another few hundred feet, and then he saw the gun, in the light of shaded lamps strung from low, portable buildings laid out along the tracks. He moved from the rails to get a better view.



At first he had seen only the suggestion of a gun. Then, as his eyes adjusted to the light, he slowly got a better view.

It stood on a railway carriage made of steel, heavily and powerfully constructed. The long barrel snaked up into the night sky, seemingly endless. From where he stood, hidden in shadow and dense brush, he calculated its length. It was over half a city block long!

So long was it, in fact, that a thick, heavy cable or round beam had been fixed to the muzzle end and then led backward to the supporting superstructure above the breech. Without the cable or beam, the immensely long barrel would have drooped!

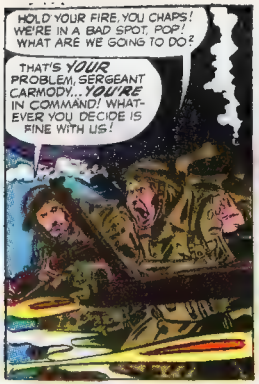
Swiftly, with a pocket instrument, he took his bearings by the visible stars, noted everything down. He waited, watching. Presently a group of soldiers detached themselves from one of the buildings. A long crane noisily lifted its nose from the ground, creakily moved to the other side of the gun. The soldiers worked swiftly round its base. Abruptly the crane drooped again, and then lifted. Binney took one look at what was hanging from the hook at one end and smiled. He jotted something down on his notes. Now he had everything, he knew.

Turning quickly, without waiting for the next shot, he hurried past the curve of the steel railroad spur, through the deep, protecting forest. The blast, when it came, shook the ground, but not Steve Binney. For he was still smiling with the great secret that he alone knew, but which all Paris and the Allies would know in twenty-four hours or less. Past the barracks he went, back to the landing meadow and then out two miles to the point west where Genaud would land the following night. He was chuckling as he slipped through the brush, unchallenged and safe. For the news he would bring would dispel the confusion. The Germans were beaten and in defeat had shown every sign of the unreason that comes with utter desperation. The super-gun did work . . . it really could fire over seventy-five miles. But it could do little damage, for the barrel would wear out quickly and could not be easily replaced. And its shells were so tiny, that they were only eight inches in caliber . . . no bigger than those of a small piece of ordinary siege artillery!

THE END G-516

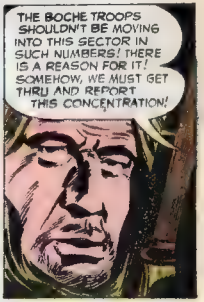
ENGLAND, DESPERATE FOR MANPOWER IN THOSE EARLY DAYS OF WORLD WAR I, TOOK EVERY MAN THEY COULD GET TO SEND TO FRANCE! MOST OF THEM WERE YOUNGSTERS, BUT PRIVATE ERNEST BLANDING WASN'T...HE WAS THIRTY-SIX, AND THE OTHERS CALLED HIM "POP"! THIS IS BLANDING'S STORY, THE STORY OF A MAN WHO HAD BEEN A FAILURE ALL HIS LIFE...

IN COMMAND!

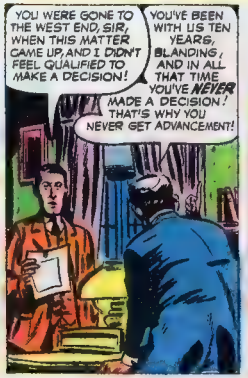

HOLD YOUR FIRE, YOU CHAPS! WE'RE IN A BAD SPOT, POP! WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, SERGEANT CARMODY... YOU'RE IN COMMAND! WHATEVER YOU DECIDE IS FINE WITH US!

"POP" BLANDING WAS RELAXED! THERE WAS NOTHING TO DO BUT WAIT FOR A COMMAND... NO DECISION FOR HIM TO MAKE... HE WAS CONTENT...

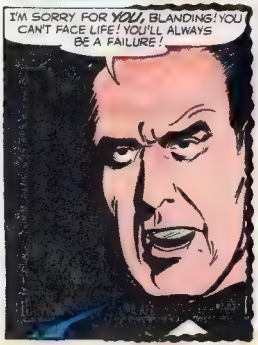
HE HAD SCHOOLED HIS MIND TO BE OBLIVIOUS TO WHAT WENT ON AROUND HIM... TO LISTEN ONLY FOR THE COMMAND, AND THEN TO OBEY THE COMMAND METHODICALLY..


THE BOCHE TROOPS SHOULDN'T BE MOVING INTO THIS SECTOR IN SUCH NUMBERS! THERE IS A REASON FOR IT! SOMEHOW, WE MUST GET THRU AND REPORT THIS CONCENTRATION!

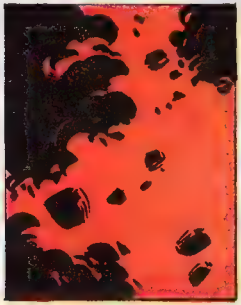
BLANDING'S THOUGHTS JOURNEYED BACK THRU TIME TO ENGLAND, TO TOWNSEND, LTD., WHERE HE HAD BEEN A CLERK... 10 YEARS AGO...


YOU WERE GONE TO THE WEST END, SIR, WHEN THIS MATTER CAME UP, AND I DIDN'T FEEL QUALIFIED TO MAKE A DECISION!
YOU'VE BEEN WITH US TEN YEARS, BLANDING, AND IN ALL THAT TIME YOU'VE NEVER MADE A DECISION! THAT'S WHY YOU NEVER GET ADVANCEMENT!

A MAN OF GOOD MENTALITY, WITH GOOD BACKGROUND AND EDUCATION... STILL A LOWLY CLERK! YOU HAVE NO INITIATIVE! YOUR FEAR OF EVER MAKING A DECISION HAS NOW LOST US OUR BEST ACCOUNT!
I'M SORRY, SIR!



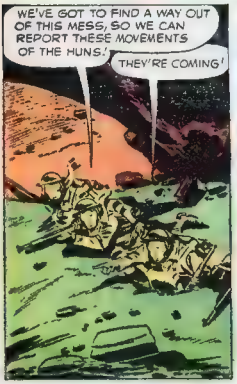
SHELL IMPACT BROKE BLANDING'S REVERIE. .



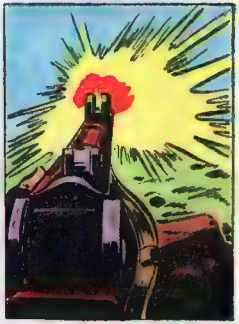
KEEP YOUR HEADS DOWN! TELL ME, POP... HOW COME THEY TOOK YOU! AT YOUR AGE, YOU MUST BE MARRIED AND HAVE A FAMILY!
NO, SERGEANT, I'M NOT MARRIED!

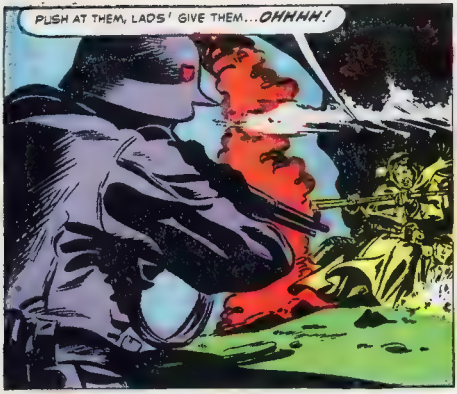
NO BLANDING WASN'T MARRIED! THERE WAS A GIRL, AND IN TEN YEARS HE HAD NOT HAD THE COURAGE TO ASK HER TO MARRY HIM.

HE HADN'T WANTED ESTHER TO SHARE HIS LIFE OF FAILURE ON THE INCOME HE EARNED AS AN UNSUCCESSFUL CLERK! THE YEARS HAD GONE ON, UNTIL THAT LAST FAREWELL AT THE TROOPSHIP...



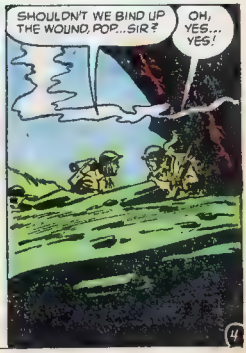
AUTOMATICALLY, BLANDING OBEYED THE VOICE OF AUTHORITY, FIRING METHODICALLY, AND WITH GOOD EFFECT...





THEY WERE YOUNG, AND THIS WAS THEIR FIRST CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY. THEY WERE FRESH FROM THE TRAINING CENTERS OF ENGLAND...

BLANDING TURNED HIS HEAD! THE FACES OF THE BOYS WERE TURNED TO HIM...NOT KNOWING WHAT TO DO, LOOKING TO HIM, THE OLDER MAN, AS THEY'D LOOK TOWARD THEIR OWN FATHER, FOR GUIDANCE...



SWEAT ROLLED DOWN HIS FACE! HIS HANDS SHOOK...

HE KNEW THEY WERE WATCHING HIM, WAITING FOR HIS ORDERS! HE KEPT HIS FACE TURNED FROM THEM...

HOW CAN I MAKE A DECISION...THE RESPONSIBILITY IS TOO MUCH! THAT'S THE WAY IT'S ALWAYS BEEN WITH ME...AFRAID THAT THE DECISION I MAKE WILL BE WRONG!

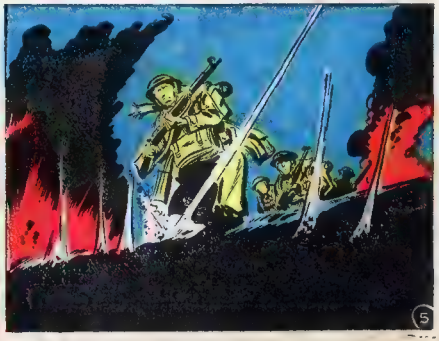
DARKNESS CREPT DOWN! THE SOUND OF BATTLE INCREASED, AS THE HUNS POUNDED THEIR POSITION...

THEY LAY THERE THRUOUT THAT NIGHT, WHILE BLANDING WAVERED IN THE GRIP OF INDECISION...

THE BOY'S RIGHT! WHY DIDN'T THE SERGEANT PUT HIM IN CHARGE, INSTEAD OF ME! THEY'VE MASSED IN FRONT OF US! THEY ARE GETTING READY TO ATTACK US IN FORCE!

HE KNEW THAT AN ATTACK IN FORCE WOULD FINISH THEM! SCARCELY MINDFUL OF WHAT HE SAID, HE ISSUED HIS COMMAND...

HE LEAPED UP, AND, IN RECKLESS ABANDON, HE RUSHED FORWARD...



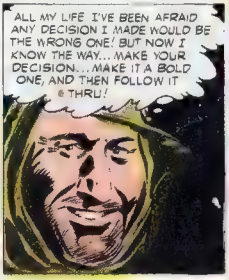
BEFORE THE ENEMY REALIZED WHAT WAS TAKING PLACE, THE ENGLISH HAD SMASHED INTO THEIR LINES ..

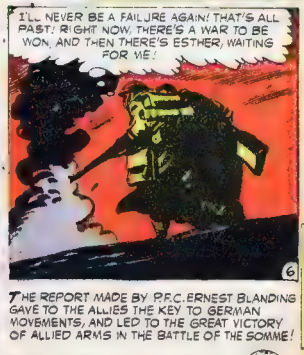
THE MINDS OF THE GERMANS WERE SLOW TO REGISTER THE FACT OF THIS SUDDEN ATTACK AGAINST THEIR OVERWHELMING FORCES! THEY FELL BEFORE THE ONSLAUGHT...

THEN, SUDDENLY, THERE WERE NO MORE GRAY-CLAD FIGURES BEFORE THEM! THEY HAD MADE THEIR WAY THRU THE ENEMY LINES... A DESPERATE DECISION HAD WON THE DAY!

I CAME TO, WHEN YOU CHARGED! I WOULDN'T HAVE HAD THE NERVE TO MAKE A DECISION LIKE THAT BLANDING... BUT IT WAS THE RIGHT ONE! GUESS I KNEW WHAT I WAS DOING, PUTTING YOU IN COMMAND!
OUR LINES... RIGHT AHEAD!

A SMILE ETCHED BLANDING'S LIPS! HIS HEAD WAS HIGH...HE LOOKED LIKE A DIFFERENT MAN! NO LONGER WAS HE THE TIMID CLERK, DEFEATED BY LIFE.. NO LONGER AFRAID...


ALL MY LIFE I'VE BEEN AFRAID ANY DECISION I MADE WOULD BE THE WRONG ONE! BUT NOW I KNOW THE WAY... MAKE YOUR DECISION... MAKE IT A BOLD ONE, AND THEN FOLLOW IT THRU!



THE REPORT MADE BY P.F.C. ERNEST BLANDING GAVE TO THE ALLIES THE KEY TO GERMAN MOVEMENTS, AND LED TO THE GREAT VICTORY OF ALLIED ARMS IN THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME!

THE END

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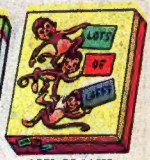

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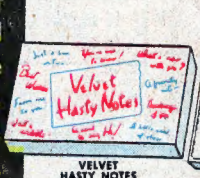

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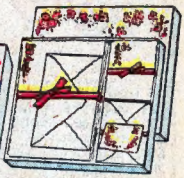

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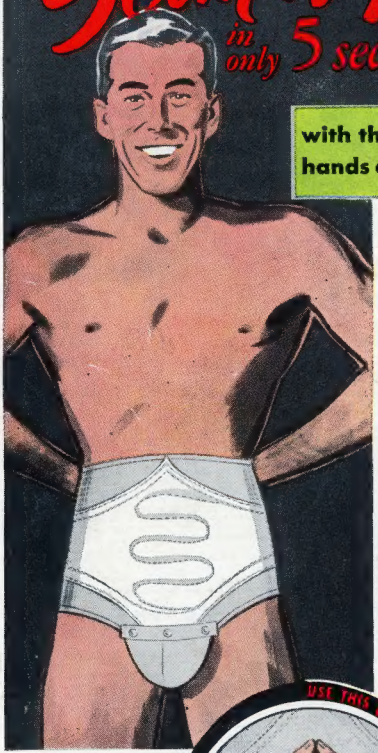
in only 5 seconds

with the interlocking hands of firm support*



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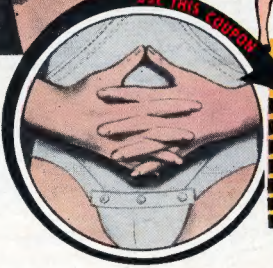
Make The Interlocking Hands Test Now! ⟶

You do not have to send for the New Power-Knit Commander with Interlocking Hands of Firm Support* to test what it will do for you. To get the idea just do this: Interlock your hands across the extended abdomen and press up and in. Feel good? Of course! Now Try New Power-Knit Commander and see if you do not feel the same way.



Ward Green Co., Dept. P238, 43 West 61st St., New York 23

OK! Send the New Power-Knit Deluxe Commander with the "Interlocking Hands of Firm Support*" for 10 days trial. I either get the results promised or my purchase price will be promptly refunded.

My present waist measure is _____ inches.

☐ I enclose $3.98 ($4.98 for waist 47 and up).

☐ Send C.O.D. I'll pay postman plus postage.

☐ Also send extra fly front pouches, 75c (3 for $2.00).

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZONE _____ STATE _____

*T. M. Reg. U. S. PATENT Office Nos. 520,148 and 506,797